ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aberration compensating optical element includes: a diffractive structure having a plurality of ring-shaped zone steps formed into substantially concentric circles on at least one surface of the aberration compensating optical element; wherein the aberration compensating optical element is adapted for being disposed on an optical path between a light source for emitting a light having a wavelength of not more than 550nm, and an objective lens made of a material having an Abbe constant of not more than 95.0 at a d-line; and wherein the following inequality is satisfied: $P_{\lambda 1} < P_{\lambda 0} < P_{\lambda 2}$, where $P_{\lambda 0}$ is a paraxial power (mm^{-1}) of the aberration compensating optical element at the wavelength λ_0 of the light emitted from the light source; $P_{\lambda 1}$ is a paraxial power (mm^{-1}) of the aberration compensating optical element at a wavelength λ_1 which is 10nm shorter than the wavelength λ_0; and $P_{\lambda 2}$ is a paraxial power (mm^{-1}) of the aberration compensating optical element at a wavelength λ_2 which is 10nm longer than the wavelength λ_0.